

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.  
Commissioner



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May 12, 2020

To: All Children's Residential Care Facilities

Re: Blanket waiver OQMHP training requirements

On March 15, 2020, Governor Janet T. Mills signed a *Proclamation of State of Civil Emergency to Further Protect Public Health* concerning the COVID-19 crisis. The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) recognizes that this crisis has strained staffing levels at Children's Residential Care Facilities (CRCF).

To allow CRCF's more flexibility in providing the required levels of care to residents, this letter constitutes OCFS's blanket waiver of personnel qualifications related to training, experience, licensure. Section 6.A.1. of 10-144 Ch. 36 Children's Residential Care Facilities Licensing Rule is waived.

#### A. QUALIFICATIONS

1. **Personnel qualifications.** The facility's personnel must be qualified to provide services by education, training, supervisory experience, licensure or the equivalent, consistent with job descriptions and required qualifications to meet the needs of admitted residents.

OQMHP certification is not readily at this time due to the Covid-19 crisis. This waiver does not negate CRCF's responsibility to ensure that all employees providing services are qualified to do so.

The effective date of this blanket waiver is March 15, 2020. This blanket waiver will end 60 days after Governor Mills declares the end of the current State of Emergency.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your Children's Residential Licensing Specialist [Lynn.ruggieri@maine.gov](mailto:Lynn.ruggieri@maine.gov) or [Amber.tassinari@maine.gov](mailto:Amber.tassinari@maine.gov).

Sincerely,

Janet S. Whitten, MSW, Manager, Children's Licensing and Investigation Services